

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Robert Kokx, living in Clarkston, Michigan. I am communicating to you concerning the Sex Offender Registration List.

I believe the Registration list is a great tool to track those convicted of and professionally determined to be sexual predators. All citizens should thank the efforts of the legislature in committing so much time and resources to the protecting of our community.

However, the system has a flaw. The judicial system does not have the ability, based on facts of the crime, to judge who should and who should not be on the list. Thus, everyone convicted of a sexual crime, regardless of its nature, is put on the list thus diluting its effectiveness. Its much like hearing a car alarm go off in the middle of the night; most of us assume it's a false alarm, roll over and go back to sleep. A tornado siren, on the other hand, gets my immediate attention as I know it only alerts in times of danger.

My son, now 23, was added to the Sex Offender Registration at age 16. The crime was to his younger step-sister. A court appointed psychiatrist evaluated Theodore and assessed that his crime was that of opportunity. It was the recommendation of the psychiatrist that Theodore be returned to our home as the resulting ordeal (arrest, jail time, family trauma, etc) was enough to set him straight.

To air on the side of caution, the Judge ordered a second evaluation with a second specialist. The recommendation was similar. The Judge apologized to Theodore and to our family as she convicted him as a juvenile with CSC 2 and to a lifetime on the registration list, stating that current law prevented her from making any other judgment.

Since then Theodore has suffered:

- Rejected from the armed forces (it was his passion to serve our country).
- Run out of 4 apartment complexes.
- Rejected from numerous jobs.
- Harrassed by co-workers who have seen him on the registration list.
- Harrassed by neighbors (vehicles vandalized and signs posted on his door).
- Morally reduced to believing he has no future (and the evidence tends to agree).

This tragedy that occurred when he was 16 has been forgiven within our family and he has demonstrated for the last 7 years that he is not a repeat offender. Theodore had now become the victim of our law!

I pled with you that you consider the current effectiveness of the registration and also the effect it has to those who do not belong on it.

I also pled with you to support making the registration more effective for those who belong on it (confirmed sexual predators) and remove those who do not belong on it.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kokx